Working Within Your Watershed: Three Performance Track Members Share Their Experiences

Performance Track Teleseminar Summary
September 28, 2004

Speakers

- Kamran Azad, environmental manager, Kodak Colorado Division
- Rick Drazich, environmental engineer, DuPont Company
- Tom Giordano, staff environmental engineer, Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company
- Richard Kashmanian, economist, Performance Track

Topic Summary

Participants in this teleseminar heard presentations from three Performance Track members who have worked to improve the conditions of their watersheds. There were approximately 25 participants.

Key Points from Presentations

Tom Giordano

Using Erosion Control to Reduce Sediment Loading
Presentation available here (PDF, 2 MB, 10 pp.)

Lockheed Martin's Waterton, Colorado facility is located on an erosion-prone property (clay soils, minimal vegetation) up-gradient from the Chatsfield Reservoir, a major water supply and recreation area serving metropolitan Denver. Giordano noted that erosion can undermine parking lots and structures; put sediment, excess nutrients, and pollutants into watersheds; and damage the landscape.

The facility has developed a systematic approach to erosion control, focusing on understanding water flow, following a policy of prevention, performing regular maintenance, and developing engineering solutions to erosion problems. The facility developed an erosion control manual, and performs regular inspections of the property for erosion problems.

Giordano warned against "band-aid solutions" that address erosion cosmetically (such as dumping fill on top of eroded areas) without attacking the underlying problem. "If you do things right the first time, you won't have so many problems later," he said.

Kamran Azad

Cache La Poudre River Water Quality Study
Presentation available here (PDF, 413 KB, 8 pp)

Kodak's Colorado Division facility, which makes x-ray film and digital media products, is performing a long-term study of water quality changes on a river that goes through its site in northern Colorado. The river is a major source of domestic and agricultural water supplies.

Kodak began the study in the 1970s in cooperation with Colorado State University, which provides technical oversight, water sampling, and analysis. The city of Fort Collins is now also a partner in the study. Sampling is performed about twice per quarter, at 7–10 sites along a 30-mile stretch of the river to monitor selected physical, chemical, and biological parameters..

Azad emphasized that proper selection of sampling sites is paramount in a study such as this one, especially with regard to the reference site (the representative site that data from other sites are compared with). Azad also pointed out the need to follow proper and approved sampling protocols. Finally, he noted that it is important to involve the public and other affected groups in the study.

Rick Drazich
Wildlife Improvement at Stine-Haskell
Presentation available here (PDF, 104 KB, 8 pp)

This 500+ acre DuPont site is located in two states, Delaware and Maryland. Water from the area ultimately goes into the Delaware River; an unnamed tributary runs through the DuPont site.

In 1995, the facility launched a wildlife habitat improvement team, which now has 55 volunteer members from the facility's workforce. The team has undertaken more than 20 projects, including putting up nest boxes, performing an inventory of plants and animals on the site, creating walking trails, and implementing alternative mowing practices to encourage wildlife. Some projects have involved local high school students. The site has been certified by the Wildlife Habitat Council.

The team also works with Delaware Streamwatch, a program sponsored by the Delaware Nature Society and the state environmental regulatory agency. Through Streamwatch, community organizations get involved in monitoring small streams and tributaries, including measuring pH and dissolved oxygen, and performing inventories of macroinvertebrates.

Richard Kashmanian
Report on Performance Track Meeting with EPA Office of Water

On September 15, 2004, officials from Performance Track and representatives from 20 member facilities and five associations met with senior leaders of EPA's Office of Water. The four-hour meeting focused on developing new water incentives to benefit Performance Track members.

Key issues discussed by the Office of Water include permitting, reducing risk strategically, and the protection of ecosystems. Performance Track is trying to find ways to streamline or expedite water-related permits that are reissued for members. Some states are receptive to this idea as well. There was interest expressed in exploring innovations in permitting, such as extending some of the features of flexible air permits to water.

Kashmanian reported that the Office of Water encouraged Performance Track facilities to work with other stakeholders to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for their watershed, if they has not already been developed (or if a TMDL has been developed but not yet implemented).

Participants at the meeting also discussed the need for more ambient water quality data. There was discussion of potential opportunities for trading off reductions in permit monitoring for increases in ambient monitoring data. EPA is interested to learn of any examples or suggestions of how to move forward with collecting and sharing more ambient monitoring data.

Kashmanian is preparing a more detailed summary of the meeting, which will be posted on the Performance Track website. He noted that Performance Track hopes to hold similar meetings with EPA's air and waste offices.

Next Teleseminar:
November 4, 2004 at 12:00 noon. The speaker will be Richard Sandor of the Chicago Climate Exchange.